

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PT5188PCT	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">FOR FURTHER ACTION</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.</div> </div>	
International application No. PCT/EP2004/005370	International filing date (day/month/year) 05/19/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 07/01/2003
Applicant SEW-Eurodrive GMBH & Co. KG		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (see Box No. II)

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box No. III)

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. _____

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

Lateral guidance transportation systems having at least one route made up of carrier elements and lateral guidance elements, on which at least one transportation vehicle is guided as the main vehicle (8), which has means for automatically moving along the route, and to which energy is transmitted by a primary circuit having a contact wire laid out along the route, or in a contactless manner,

the main vehicle (8) including a lifting platform that is able to be driven by a drive, especially, for example, an electric motor or a geared motor, and on which there is at least one satellite vehicle (9) that is also includes a drive, such as, for example, an electric motor or a geared motor, for automatically moving along an additional route, and which is developed for transporting goods,

the route including a satellite route section for the positioning and parking of the satellite vehicle (9),

the satellite route section being truly alignable, by positioning of the main vehicle (8) along its route, on satellite routes situated transversely to the latter, these satellite routes being situated on shelves,

satellite route sections and satellite routes including primary conductors which are supplied with energy in a contactless manner from the main vehicle (8).

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/005370

Box No. II Priority

1. ☒ The following document has not yet been furnished:

☒ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(a)).

☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/005370

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-14	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-14	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-14	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations:

see appended sheet

Re Point V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting this statement

The most proximate related art is seen to be DE-A-19626966. This document describes a lateral guidance transportation system having:

- a) a route of carrier elements and lateral guidance elements on which a transportation vehicle is guided as a main vehicle,
- b) which has means for automatic movement along the route, and to which energy is transferred in a contactless manner from a primary circuit laid out along the route,
- c) a satellite vehicle having automatic movement being located on the main vehicle,
- d) the route including a satellite route section for the positioning and parking of the satellite vehicle, and
- e) the satellite route section being truly alignable, by positioning of the main vehicle along its route, on satellite routes situated transversely to the latter.

The concept that the main vehicle includes a driven lifting platform, that the satellite routes are situated on shelves **(in the related art, special carrier vehicles are required in this connection)** and the satellite route sections and the satellite routes include primary conductors which are supplied with energy in contactless fashion **(from the main vehicle)** is neither anticipated nor made obvious by the present related art.